

THE NATURE OF VOLUNTEERING

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EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF NATURE - VOLUNTEER

Winter 2003



At this special time of the year, when we pause to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, the staff at Forsythe want to send their thanks and blessings to the many wonderful volunteers who have donated their time, talents, humor and wisdom as often as they possibly could this past year.

We are so very grateful for you and the hours you so generously have volunteered. So much of what was accomplished this past year was made possible through the generous spirit of those who believe in the importance of our mission. It can't happen without folks who are willing to spend their time here, and we can't say thank you enough! We hope you all have a happy and blessed holiday season.

The Staff - Steve, Deb, Art, Jorge, Cindy, Marty, Brian, Chris, Vinny, Tom, Terry, and Sandy



AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES ...



where wildlife comes naturally!

One Out of Every Five Americans Watches Birds

A new federal economic report found that 46 million birdwatchers across America spent \$32 billion in 2001 pursuing one of the Nation's most popular outdoor activities according to a report from the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The report, Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, is the first of its kind analyzing data from the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

"Nearly one in five Americans is a bird watcher," said Service Director Steve Williams. "This report recognizes what we always thought to be true. Birdwatching is very popular and contributes greatly to our economy, so it is important that we continue to work with our partners to restore and protect habitat to ensure healthy bird populations."

Montana, Vermont and Wisconsin led the Nation in birding participation rates as a percent of total State population. California, New York and Pennsylvania had the most birders.

Birders spent \$32 billion on gear such as binoculars, travel, food and big ticket items such as canoes, cabins and off-road vehicles. This spending generated \$85 billion in overall economic output and \$13 billion in federal and state income taxes, and supported more than 863,000 jobs.

To be considered a birdwatcher, an individual must take a trip a mile or more from home for the primary purpose of observing birds or must closely observe or try to identify birds around the home. Those who notice birds while mowing the lawn or picnicking at the beach were not counted as birders. Trips to zoos and observing captive birds also did not count as birdwatching. Watching birds around the home is the most common form of bird-watching. Taking trips away from home counted for 40 percent (18 million) of birders.

The full report is available on-line at http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey2001_birding.pdf.

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VIEW FROM THE TOWER

Why Moist Soil management in former saltmarsh?

Flat Sledge

When you compare the nutritional value of native plants growing in seasonal wetlands to agricultural grains, there is no contest. Native plants found in seasonal wetlands (referred to as moist soil plants) are more nutritionally complete.



Yes, "hot" food items such as agricultural grains provide an excellent source of energy via carbohydrates but the seeds of native plants contain proteins and essential amino acids, not available in grains, that are crucial to meeting life requisites of in a birds annual life cycle.

These pioneering native plants are referred to as moist soil plants because they thrive in saturated mucky soils during that regularly occur during the droughty summer growing season. Wetlands normally undergo a natural drawdownthrough the effects of evapotranspiration (the combined effect of evaporation and transpiration (water loss through vegetation foliage during photosynthesis). They also grow well in disturbed areas, as most annuals do. In fact, they need a period of drawdown during the growing season in order to allow germination.

In our area, some benchmark moist soil plants include plants like smartweeds, docks, Walter's millet, flat-sedges and spike rush.

Wetland impoundment management is as much art as it is science and sometimes a lot of ingenuity is involved in achieving desired results. The combination of soil temperature and soil saturation at the right time of the growing season largely determines what crop you get.

One other advantage is that seeds of moist soil plants persist longer in water than agricultural grains, giving birds a food source throughout winter.

Additionally, these moist soil plants tend to have a lot of leaf structure and therefore a high surface-to-volume ratio which provides excellent habitat for a wide diversity of invertebrates. These invertebrates provide essential proteins, amino acids and calcium not available in plants. This is especially critical to spring-migrating females, as they prepare for the nesting season. They need the calcium provided by a seasonal diet-shift to invertebrates to allow proper egg shell formation (calcification).

So the next time you find yourself swatting green head flies on the wildlife drive in mid-summer and you note the lack of water in an impoundment, don't be alarmed. For this drought is the key to fostering the production of plant materials that benefit migratory birds from waterfowl to shorebirds year round.

Jorge Coppen, Refuge Biologist

The "Make a Difference Day" That Really Did

Have you ever had a reoccuring nightmare that you awakened each day to find that gremlins had filled your house with trash all night and you had to get up and start cleaning over ... and over ... and over?

That's somewhat how the gardening volunteers felt this year as the prolific rains caused weeds, whose seeds had lain dormant for years, to germinate and fill the garden ... over ... and over ... and over. The volunteers were becoming very discouraged as they weeded each week, only to come in the next week and find a fresh green carpet of invasive species already on their way to strangling the native plants which had been so carefully tended.

Enter the "Make a Difference Day" participants individuals, families, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, some returning volunteers who had been away all summer, old friends and new. And they worked. Oh how they worked! And, like the native plants, the gardening volunteers perked up. They finally saw the beauty their long-term efforts had produced. That one day of children and adults, strangers, friends and families, working together, turned it around. Everybody had a good time talking and working and eating pizza. Afterwards, there were National Wildlife Refuge Day activities, such as painting pumpkins, riding on a habitat hayride, and getting faces painted, to enjoy. It left a lasting impression on the garden. It left a lasting impression on the participants. They are already signing up to come back next year.

Sue Tebbs, Volunteer

HELP WANTED

One day a week starting in the spring, Sue Tebbs and I would love to have you or someone you know help us count fee monies. Maybe you know someone who isn't yet a volunteer at the refuge but would enjoy doing a behind-the-scenes job. Just about anyone can be trained to help out. All that is required is a desire to help and basic counting skills. We have calculators and bill counters to make the job a bit easier. If you are interested, give me a call at 652-1665 during the week. We usually count on Tuesdays, but we can make other arrangements if necessary.

Cindy Heffley

"America's Wildest Places" Pays Tribute to National Wildlife Refuge System

One of the most extensive

examinations of the conser-

vation of wildlife and natu-

ral diversity by any museum

opened November 7th.

If you're looking for something to do over the holidays, one trip you'll want to consider is to the Smithsonian Institute - just a few hours away.

From the rugged coast of Maine to the tropical island of Guam, the world's most expansive network of public lands dedicated to the preservation of wildlife will be celebrated when the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History opens a first-of-its-kind exhibition, "America's Wildest Places: Our National Wildlife Refuge System," on November 7.

The multi-media exhibition - one of the most extensive examinations of the conservation of wildlife and natural diversity by any museum -will include docent-led programs, films, and a host of hands-on displays about the

National Wildlife Refuge System and our country's network of "America's Byways," a collection of distinct and diverse roads designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. "America's Wildest Places" will be on view through April11,2004.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Federal Highway Administration, will present the National Wildlife Refuge System's pioneering work to preserve the nation's natural treasures even as suburban growth replaces important habitat. The unique exhibition also will examine how technology has dramatically improved wildlife and habitat management and preservation. Visitors will be encouraged to use the national scenic byways to reach wildlife refuges, many of which are just an hour's drive from major metropolitan areas.

"America's Wildest Places is part of the Smithsonian's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a hallmark of our nation's rich wildlife conservation heritage," said Cristian Samper, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. "We are pleased to join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Federal Highway Administration in mounting this timely and landmark exhibition."

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to bring to our nation's capital virtual tours of seven of our best wildlife refuges, each located along one of America's Byways. We look forward to hosting visitors at these and other refuges after they learn about the Refuge System from this fabulous exhibition." said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Steve Williams.

"This exhibition will remind people from around the world that Americans care deeply about nature and the environment and that this is reflected in our government policy," said Mary E. Peters, head of the Federal Highway Administration. "I invite visitors to start with this exhibition and then to experience America's history and beauty by taking a trip on one of our scenic byways."

Exhibition visitors will be able to examine wildlife in a variety of habitats through visual images and hands-on displays. Among other themes, the exhibit will emphasize

how the National Wildlife Refuge System's growth has reflected changing conservation values over the past 100 years. It also highlights important figures and events in American history that have affected Wildlife Refuges, and the network of national scenic byways that provide access to the nation's most outstanding natural areas. President Theodore Roosevelt launched the National Wildlife Refuge System on March 14, 1903, by designating the 5-acre Pelican Island in Florida as this country's first bird sanctuary. The National Wildlife Refuge System now encompasses more than 540 refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas covering approximately 100 million acres. A wildlife refuge can be found in every state and several U.S. territories. Refuges

> have played a vital role in protecting wildlife habitat and offer Americans the opportunity to pursue such outdoor activities as hiking, hunting, fishing, photographing and viewing wildlife, and studying the natural world.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the

principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 100 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 542 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

The Federal Highway Administration is a part of the Department of Transportation and is responsible for developing regulations, policies, and guidelines to achieve safety, access, and economic development. The FHWA promotes economic development through the National Scenic Byways Program, which was established by Congress in 1991. The program was created to preserve and protect the nation's scenic byways and at the same time, promote tourism and economic development throughout the **United States**

The National Museum of Natural History is located at 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. It is the most visited natural history museum in the world, welcoming more than 6 million people last year. The museum is dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of the world's most extensive collection of natural history specimens and human artifacts. The museum is a part of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum and research complex. from USFWS News After all the Centennial Celebration frenzie this past year (most of which were rained upon), Refuge staff and volunteers figured they were due for some nice weather for a special event -- and that's exactly what October 25th's National Wildlife Refuge Week celebration brought.

As the sun rose over the saltmarsh, staff and volunteers were busy getting ready for the over 500 people who would visit the refuge this day.

This year's theme, Saving Space for Wildlife, gave our participating partners the opportunity to talk about their missions and how we all work together for everyone's future. We were pleased to be joined by our "neighboring" refuges, John Heinz (Philadelphia) and Great Swamp (Basking Ridge NJ), and by our Ecological Services office in Pleasantville. Other groups included the Atlantic County Historical Society, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Wells Mills County Park, Richard Stockton College's Biology Department, and Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. Young and old alike were delighted with the gamut of critters who came with their humans from the Philadelphia and Cape May County's Zoos.

An exciting new addition to this year's celebration was a habitat hayride through normally closed areas of the Refuge. The wagon was donated for the day by the Atlantic County Utility Authority.

Atlantic Audubon and Friends of Forsythe once again led visitors on a guided tour via our "saltmarsh trolley express," after which kids gathered around to watch the "At the Refuge" puppet show. Throughout the day, kids had fun getting their faces painted and then painted faces on pumpkins provided by our "Friends."

Kris Arcuri's hard work with local Port Republic School children was realized when their "Let's Go Birding" display brought kids to practice their birdwatching skills.

It may have taken quite a few trys to get an event without rain, but at the end of this day, all had to agree the weather

was picture perfect!







Photos by John Matteoni and Ed Jones



The Sixth Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge Series of Birding Contest held on National Wildlife Refuge Day, Sat. Oct 18th provided visiting teams of from 2 to 4 casual birders, friends, and families the opportunity to take part in the great international sport of birding. Over 100 contest packets were distributed at the start of the refuge auto tour by the SOB Staff of Audubon volunteers consisting of Umpires, Judges, and Scorers. Fourteen team entries were returned with 35 participants registered. Scoring of species seen is weighted according to the relative abundance of individual bird species observed on the refuge during the current season. First Place went to the Joyce Holland Team of Pawcatuck, CT with a score of 97. Second Place went to the Joe Mangino Family of Cedar Bonnet Island, NJ with a score of 75. Third Place went to the Gary Meikle Family of nearby Smithville with a score of 49. Certificates of recognition, place ribbons, and fun prizes were sent to the winning teams. The Refuge SOB Contest is held twice annually, on International Migratory Bird Day in May and on National Wildlife Refuge Day in October. The Refuge Day SOB Staff consisted of Maurice Trembly, John Matteoni, Tom Touhy, and John Williamson. Refuge Staffers Sandy Perchetti and Cindy Heffley provided logistical support. Look for announcement of the next Refuge Series of Birding and join in the fun.

John Williamson, AAS Conservation Chair



Refuge Series of Birding staff John Williamson and Maurice Trembly explain the contest rules.



Our new Outdoor Recreation Planner (ORP)





ART WEBSTER

Art and his family left the sunny, warm weather at his last station - Guam National Wildlife Refuge - to join our Forsythe team and found the weather anything but warm - but he promises to stay anyway. During his four year stay at Guam NWR, Art was Acting Refuge Manager and Outdoor Recreation Planner.

Prior to joining the Refuge System, he worked for the National Park Service for 15 years as a Park Ranger and Naturalist and worked at seven National Park units which included Olympic, Everglades, Grand Titon and Virgin Island National Parks, just to name a few.

With his background in interpretive operations and education, Art will fill a void at Forsythe that has existed far too long - educational outreach. (Pay attention all you volunteers who have been eager to help in this area ... there will soon be plenty of help needed here!)

Art is married and has five children - three girls and two boys, between the ages of two and seventeen. His wife, Evelyn, has home schooled all of the children. They're presently house hunting.

After getting a feel for the priorities at Forsythe, Art plans to increase the educational program opportunities

and continue to work on the plan for our new visitors center that some day may become a reality.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Songs of the System CD
Refuge t-shirts, hats and pins
Audubon Songbirds
Coloring books for kids

Call Cindy at 652-1665 to place your order.

All items are in stock.

"The good name you leave behind at one place, often arives before you at another." -- author unknown.

According to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaer in waht oredr the Itteers are in a wrod, the olny timprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and Isat Itteers be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey Itetr by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Petrty amzanig huh?

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - Bring a Friend			
Wildflower Garden	Environmental Education	Count Entrance Fees	
Visitor Center Talks Photo Club Puppeteers Help with census o	Trail Maintenance Friends of Forsythe of plant or animal populations	Special Events Clean Up Litter Lead bus tours on Wildlife Drive	
If you're interested in volunteering for any of these projects, have other ideas, or would like to contribute goods or services to help with these projects, please let us know by completing this form and sending it to us:			
Name:		Edwin B. Forsythe NWR Box 72, Great Creek Road Oceanville, NJ 08231 609-748-1535	

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORD PUZZLE

RAUQSSEMIT R ΕV OGNAHUUC S С BALLX СН F 0 D E S R Τ Ν D 0 ERRLDS - 1 R РНЕ G G В Ν AUEI Т CPNTN D S Α Ε S - 1 R K G Ν L Κ F T C - 1 Ε SRIFAKPRQ С Т HEADACHESS Ζ SREMAERTSA NNET GRFSNOITULOSER

ASPIRIN
AULD LANG SYNE
BALL
BALLOONS
CHAMPAGNE
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
DANCING
EVE
FIRECRACKERS

FIRST HANGOVER HATS HEADACHE HOLIDAY HORNS MIDNIGHT MUSIC NOISE MAKERS PARTY

RESOLUTIONS SELTZER SICK SINGING SLEEP STREAMERS TIMES SQUARE TOASTS TUXEDO

copyright 1995 John's Word Search Puzzles

WHO'S ON STAFF?

Project Leader STEVE ATZERT

Deputy Project Leader DEBORAH LONG Refuge Manager Barnegat Division VACANT

Planner

Outdoor Recreation Planner ART WEBSTER

Biologists
JORGE COPPEN, VINNY TURNER

Refuge Law Enforcement Officers BRIAN WILLARD, CHRIS PANCILA

Administrative

Office

Officer MARTHA HAND Automation Assistant CINDY HEFFLEY

Volunteer Coordinator SANDY PERCHETTI

Maintenance Professionals TOM HOLDSWORTH TERRY MITCHELL







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